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BY
THOMAS SKINNER, M. D.

1883.

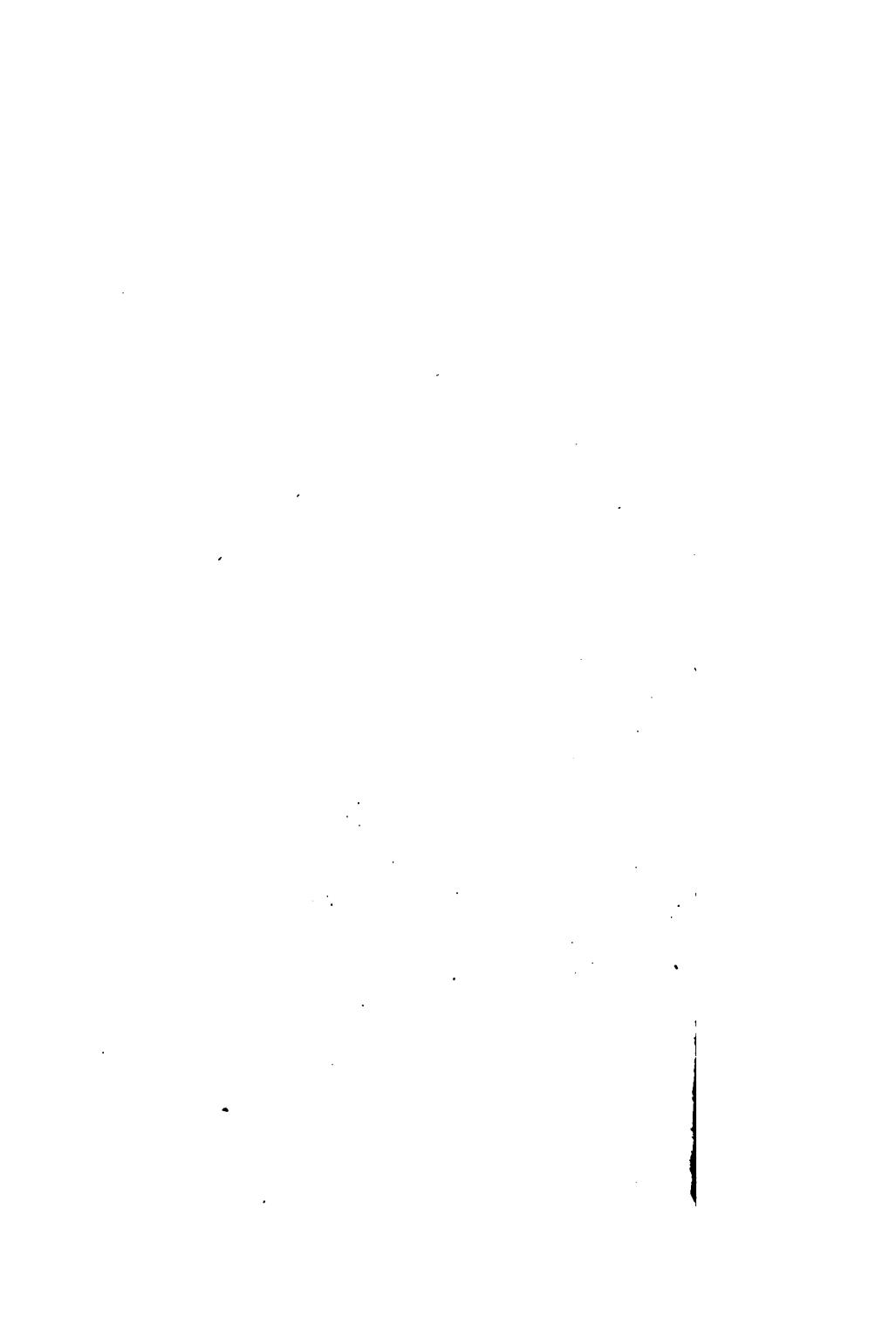
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HOMOEOPATHY AND GYNÆCOLOGY.



Dr. Thos Skinner
of Liverpool

W. H. & S. A. 91809

HOMŒOPATHY;

IN ITS RELATION TO

THE DISEASES OF FEMALES,

OR

GYNÆCOLOGY.

BY

THOMAS SKINNER, M.D.,

LONDON.

Second Edition.

LONDON :
THE HOMŒOPATHIC PUBLISHING COMPANY,
2, FINSBURY CIRCUS.

—
1883.

"I seek after Truth, by which no man ever yet was injured."—

M. ANTONINUS.

"Veritas, a quo^{cunque} dicitur, a Deo est."—ANONYMOUS.

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

As the first edition of this *brochure* has been long out of print ; as I have frequently been asked by my patients if I could oblige them with a copy to give or lend to a friend ; and as I am constantly being asked by my professional brethren, if I still adhere in opinion and practice to all that I have stated in this little work, as regards my ability to treat all the diseases to which women are subject, more especially vaginal and uterine discharges, displacements of the womb, neuralgias, inflammations, ulcerations, cancers, *et hoc genus omne*—WITHOUT LOCAL TREATMENT OF ANY KIND—I determined to publish this second edition, and let me add, that since the first edition saw the light in 1875, every year has only served to confirm the high stand-point which I then took in regard to

this, the greatest revolution in Gynæcology, namely, that *Constitutional* treatment alone was and is all that is necessary for the successful treatment of all vaginal, uterine and ovarian disease, and that all local treatment is not only unnecessary, but very frequently hurtful and not devoid of danger, to say nothing of its revolting character.

THOMAS SKINNER, M.D.

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LONDON, W., 1 *May*, 1883.

"It is the genuine Hahnemannian spirit, totally to disregard all theories, even those of our own fabrication, when they are in opposition to the results of pure experience. All theories and hypotheses have no positive weight whatever, only so far as they lead to new experiments, and afford a better survey of the results of those already made."—C. HERING.

INTRODUCTORY.

HAVING been connected with the practice of Medicine since 1847, more than a quarter of a century, it is due to the profession of Medicine, to the public and to myself, that I should give my reasons for making so remarkable a revolution in my views of the principles and practice of my profession as to change from Allopathy to Homœopathy.

During my career as a physician I have always taken a decided stand against homœopathy and its practitioners, believing, as I did most sincerely, that Hahnemann and his followers were not only deceived, but in turn they were deceivers. The whole system seemed to me, in my then profound ignorance of the subject, so preposterous, and so far beyond the bounds of human credibility and reason, as that no ordinary



thoughtsman could be blamed if he refused to give it even a hearing, far less to take the system into his serious consideration. I was one of the physicians in Liverpool who took an active part in persecuting or attempting to put down homœopathy—to stamp it out, in fact. Like the great apostle to the Gentiles, who, before his conversion to Christianity, persecuted the Church and kicked against the pricks, I have persecuted the truth in another form, and I now, with bent knees, exclaim *peccavi*, and trust to be forgiven.

A few years ago I was spending the evening with some clerical friends, when one of them asked me my opinion about homœopathy and its supporters. I candidly confessed to my catechist that homœopathy had done a world of good to those in the profession, and their name is legion, who abuse medicine ; and in that light homœopathists might be regarded as a fulfilment of the text, altered to suit the occasion, that God hath chosen the foolish ones to confound the wise, and the weak to confound the mighty. As might be expected, this expression of my opinion was received with great laughter. The laugh is turned upon myself, however, as I am now one of the “foolish and weak” ones chosen by God for carrying out His wise designs. Foolish or wise, weak or strong, I trust that He will not find me wanting. So great was my abhorrence of homœopathy, and so determined was I to put it down,

M. T. C. L.

I was instrumental not only in passing, but also in perpetuating, the most illiberal law that ever was made by a profession styling itself "liberal." The law is still existing, I believe, as one of the code of laws of the Liverpool Medical Institution, and is as follows:—
"The Liverpool Medical Institution shall consist of physicians, surgeons, and other legally qualified practitioners; but no one practising homœopathy shall be eligible either as a member of the institution or as a subscriber to the library; and any member or subscriber who may become a practitioner of homœopathy shall cease to belong to the institution."—*Laws and Regulations of the Liverpool Medical Institution.* Law II. 1861. As the existence of this law was tantamount to drawing up and signing my own death-warrant, I resigned my membership.

THE CHIEF CAUSE OF MY PREJUDICE AGAINST HOMŒOPATHY.

As it may be interesting to many to learn the chief cause which led to my intolerance of homœopathy, I may state that I was born and educated at Edinburgh, and was a pupil of the late Professor Sir James Young Simpson, Baronet. In 1851-52 I took his gold medal in Gynæcology and Obstetrics, and in 1855-56, after being about three years in practice in Dumfrieshire, I became the private assistant of Sir James at his

residence, 52, Queen Street, Edinburgh. Having been brought up from my youth to recognise in Sir James Simpson the leading medical light of the century, and having been in such close contact with him, I could scarcely escape becoming, as it were, impregnated with his views and bias as regards the great contest between the old-school of medicine and homœopathy. So far as Sir James Simpson was capable of investigating the works of Hahnemann, he did investigate them in his own peculiar way—no quarter. He examined them only as a *litterateur* and a rival, never as a genuine truth-seeker or truth-lover ought to have done. He never tried the practice on the smallest scale, except to ridicule it. Besides, I do not think it possible for any man to teach himself homœopathy any more than allopathy without a master. Indeed, homœopathy is infinitely the more difficult of the two. If every new truth or discovery were investigated in the manner in which Sir James investigated homœopathy, no other result could ensue but a wilful closing of our eyes to the truth. If any one will peruse Sir James's *Homœopathy; its Tenets and Tendencies*, Edin., 1853, he cannot fail to observe that the reigning passion in the author's mind is not the sober, unbiased investigation of truth, but a thorough determination to prove the discoverer of homœopathy not only as deceived but next to insane and a deceiver, and his entire system nothing but the baseless fabric of a

vision. Having a greatly exaggerated idea of the capability of Sir James Simpson for the investigation of medical science, and being for the time spell-bound by the greatness and power of his genius, which I fully acknowledge, I took his reply to Hahnemann and his works as a complete settlement of the question. Sir James Simpson and Samuel Hahnemann are both in their graves, but not so homœopathy, which is only commencing to bud and develop, for *magna est veritas et prevalebit.*

SIMPSON AND HENDERSON.

It may be well to remember that Sir James Simpson's critique of homœopathy was written to a great extent in reply to one from the pen of his brother professor in the University, the late Dr. William Henderson, the title of which was, *An Enquiry into the Homœopathic Practice of Medicine*, Lond. and Edin., 1845. It is also well to remember that the interval between the appearance of Professor Henderson's work and the reply of Professor Simpson was seven or eight years, so that the latter had plenty of time to do the subject every justice, if justice were to be had at his hands. There can be no excuse for the errors and misrepresentations which are to be found throughout the two hundred and eighty-six pages of Simpson's abuse of Hahnemann and Henderson. Professor Henderson lost no time in replying

to Simpson, as in the same year he published his *Homœopathy Fairly Represented*, which was unanswered as far as Simpson was capable of answering it, so he very wisely allowed it to remain unanswered. From purblind prejudice I never read this reply of Henderson until 1874, twenty-one years after it first saw the light.

HENDERSONIAN-HOMŒOPATHY.

With all my admiration of the late Professor Henderson, as a pioneer of the new truth, as one of the gallant band which has hitherto in this country bravely stood the brunt of the battle, he was, nevertheless, in my estimation, not a true disciple or interpreter of Hahnemann, but held a dwarfed and disintegrated form of the Master's great discoveries, and which has done more to keep back their acceptance by the body of the profession than anything. He lost the true light when he *alternated* the remedy; because, by doing so, he could learn really nothing of the true genius or sphere of action of any one remedy. He adopted the *objective* or sensible signs of disease as the chief indication for the selection of the remedy, which is not the teaching of Hahnemann. He adopted as the only sound basis for the proper selection of the remedy the pathological conditions which he had all his life been taught and accustomed to look upon as the *sine quâ non* of sound scientific practice, which is

condemned by the *Organon* of Hahnemann ; and he had the coolness to call his treatise “*Homœopathy ‘Fairly’ Represented.*” By these false steps alone Henderson did great injury to the cause, and he and all his followers fell into the error of *treating disease by name instead of their patients by the TOTALITY of their symptoms and conditions.* Hence was developed the rage for *specifics* for bronchitis, pneumonia, cholera, croup, diabetes, diphtheria, and the like (*homœopathy made easy*), which is not the homœopathy of Hahnemann at all, however like the genuine article and scientific it may be thought to be by an immense majority. By this deviation from the truth, as discovered, held, and practised by Hahnemann and his true disciples, Henderson was forced and tied down to the use of allopathic doses of low-potencies and mother tinctures ; to the constant use of external and local applications and allopathic palliatives of every kind ; above which, hitherto, neither he nor his followers have been able to rise or do without. Hence the commonly received opinion at the present day, that high-potencies are the weaker therapeutic power, and low-potencies the greater ; whereas the true Hahnemannian knows and believes and practises the very reverse,—that low-potencies are what the term denotes in Hahnemannian language, the lower power, and high-potencies the higher power,—which is a further proof of the distortion of the

truth as held and taught by the Hendersonian-School of homœopathy.

Hendersonian-homœopathy, which at present is all the fashion, is as different from that of Hahnemann as night is from day, and yet it is superior to allopathy, to which it is, unquestionably, closely allied.

I would not have it thought that Hendersonian-homœopathy has been without its use. There can be no doubt whatever that it has greatly assisted in tracing the relation of certain medicines, in their action on the healthy body and mind, to certain diseases of more or less fixed symptoms and location, which is but a fraction of Hahnemann's system. The great misfortune is, that Henderson represented the part which he cultivated and understood as the whole.

In spite of Henderson's shortcomings, all true and generous-spirited Hahnemannians cannot but admire and respect his true genius and sincerity.

It is almost unnecessary to add that I much prefer the homœopathy of Hahnemann to that of any interloper or would-be improver of his marvellous system, and I prefer to seek for directions how to practise it first-hand in Hahnemann's own works, where it is, thank Heaven, still to be found in its pristine purity. The true Hahnemannian revels, yea, glories, in the name of Hahnemann and homœopathy. He has no desire to see the day when homœopathy and allopathy will be

convertible terms—the two systems being diametrically opposed to each other when faithfully and honestly practised—yet, strange to say, there are men who may leave their “footprints in the sands of time,” and who have for years past fought the good fight against the old-school of medicine, who have signified their willingness to cave in and sell their birth-right, their honour, their all that they have so long fought for, the truth—if they ever possessed it—for a mess of porridge, the privilege to hobnob and fraternise with those whose system of practice they have so long and so justly opposed. I say to such men the sooner they go over to allopathy the better for the homœopathy of the Master, or let us hear no more of their willingness to resign the honourable name of “Homœopath,” or “Homœopathician,” as our American cousins prefer to call themselves.

THE “ORGANON” · THE ONLY GUIDE

Although I was misled by Sir James Simpson, I do not blame him in the least; he himself knew no better. No one has a right to blame another for leading him astray; we have no one to blame but ourselves. Let every man judge for himself—let him take nothing on the *ipse dixit* of any man, no, not of Hahnemann himself—but let him examine all things well by the light

that is in him, and hold fast by that which seems good and true. Let every physician and student of medicine do as I have done,—carefully peruse for himself the *Organon* of Hahnemann, his *Chronic Diseases*, and his *Materia Medica Pura*, (they are to be had in English), and I warrant him that he will rise from the perusal a wiser man. Above all, after the perusal and study thereof, let him see the practice of homœopathy in the hands of a master in the art, and he will be forced to exclaim—Have I been all this time in so great, such dense darkness, mistaking darkness for light, and light for darkness?

THE GREAT VALUE OF THE SINGLE REMEDY.

In perusing the *Organon* of Hahnemann, Simpson picked up a great treasure—a golden rule in the successful and scientific cultivation of either school of medicine—and that was, *never to prescribe more than one medicine at a time, and more particularly when testing or proving a medicine*. Any one who has seen much of Sir James's practice must have been struck with this peculiarity. I do not think it was his own idea, but a borrowed light—and a grand light it is; and it would be well for both schools of medicine if this golden rule were more universally adopted. There are other sources from which Simpson may have obtained this

practical guide in therapeutics, and I allude to it chiefly to show the great weight attached to it by at least three of the most remarkable minds which have ever adorned the study of medicine, namely, Cullen, Hahnemann, and Simpson. It is just possible that both Hahnemann and Simpson got the idea originally from Cullen, who, in his published works, wrote as follows :—"There is nothing I desire so much as that every disease we treat here should be a matter of experience to you ; so that you must not be surprised that I use *only one remedy* when I might employ two or three, for in using a multiplicity of remedies, when a cure does succeed, it is not easy to perceive which is the most effectual. I wish that you may always have some opportunity of judging with regard to their proper effects." It is a remarkable fact that Hahnemann first conceived of homœopathy whilst he was engaged in translating the works of Cullen into his native language, and it is more than probable that this very passage may have had a great deal to do with the foundation of his theory and practice of medicine.

Speaking of the opposite practice, that of polypharmacy, it is but lately that I saw a prescription with nine different ingredients in it ; which of the nine corresponded to the lady's complaint it would be difficult to say. I should say none of them. The following is so fine a specimen of a prescription, by a fashionable

metropolitan allopathic physician, that I cannot resist recording it. It was written in June, 1874, for a Liverpool gentleman suffering from chronic gout:—

| | | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----|-----|---------|
| R. | Tr. Guaiaci Am. | ... | ... | ʒvi. |
| | Tr. Cinch. fl. | ... | ... | ʒviii. |
| | Pot. Iod. | ... | ... | gr. xx. |
| | Vin. Colchici | ... | ... | m. xl. |
| | Muc. Acaciæ | ... | ... | ʒix. |
| | Lithiæ Cit. | ... | ... | ʒiv. |
| | Aquæ—ad | ... | ... | ʒviii. |

Sig.:—Take an eighth part once a day, on alternate weeks, with a little water, about noon.

Here follow three initials.

It is to be hoped that the patient found something in the document to relieve his chalky deposits; but, if he did, to which of the six active ingredients is his relief attributable? And this is dignified with the title of scientific medicine. The writer of the above prescription is a Professor of Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Clinical Medicine, in one of our leading Universities. Need we wonder that medical men and medicine are laughed at in our courts of law, and are the sport of post-prandial wits and novelists, when such mixtures are licensed and vended by our clinical professors. Of all the faults of Sir James Simpson, no one can lay to his charge that of polypharmacy.

Before concluding the introductory portion of this

Paper, I wish to state that it is my firm and conscientious conviction, founded on my own and on the experience of three of the greatest minds in the past, that any system of medicine which aims at perfection, must have the two following rules carried out to the life :—

1. That all medicines must be proved, whether simple or compound, as a unit or single substance.
2. When given in the cure of the sick, they must also be given in single file.

I am aware that possibly the majority are against me ; let it be so ; we must simply agree to differ. “Tis with our judgments as our watches ; none go just alike, yet each believes his own.”

Having endeavoured to explain the causes of my determined blindness to the merits of the Hahnemannian system of medicine, I now proceed to give some of my reasons for throwing off Allopathy and adopting Homœopathy in its stead.

ALLOPATHY AND HOMEOPATHY CONTRASTED IN SOME SIMPLE ACUTE AND CHRONIC STATES OF DISEASE.

In the first place, allopathy at the best is entirely a system of empiricism,—a mere system of extensive palliation, but not of cure,—whilst the system of Hahnemann is entirely one of cure from beginning to end, and spurns palliatives, the *simillimum* always acting as

the best palliative as well as the best curative remedy. Allopathy is all guess-work at best, as instance the prescription I have just recorded, whilst homœopathy is a system founded on the science of correspondences, as unerring as the laws of astronomy and physics. Homœopathy does not cure by finding a substitute or making another disease—the disease of the doctor—but it simply removes the disease, and leaves the constitution all the better for the loss. It does not relieve pain at the cost of the constitution, by paralysing the nerve centres, the brain, *et cetera*, with narcotics, nor with nervine tonics, which over-stimulate the system, producing headache, biliousness, constipation, and all kinds of other diseases. Homœopathy does not remove constipation by inducing diarrhoea, nor does it remove diarrhoea by inducing constipation; it simply removes the constipation or the diarrhoea by giving a medicine in an infinitesimal dose, which in itself corresponds to or is capable of inducing a similar kind of constipation or diarrhoea, and it does so without in the smallest degree impairing the constitution of the patient. For instance :—

DIARRHŒA.—Mrs. B. has had sixteen *watery stools* in ten or twelve hours, *aggravated by standing or walking*. One single dose of *Aloe 15 m.* put an end to it at once.*

* The italicised sentences correspond to the indications for the selection

DIARRHŒA.—Mrs. P., for some weeks past, has had diarrhoea *immediately after every meal, with constant thirst.* *Arsenicum Album, 15 m.*, stopped it gradually but entirely, in five doses, at intervals of three hours.

DIARRHŒA.—Mrs. W., for a week past, has had *constant nausea, sickness, and vomiting, great thirst for little and often, copious watery stools, feeling of great debility;* terrible sense of bearing down in the vagina, with violent itching of the pudenda. On the 31st July last I gave her, in my consulting-room, one dose of *Antimonium-Tart.*, 1600, and she went home. I did not see her again until the 15th September of this year (1875), when she told me that soon after leaving my house all her symptoms entirely disappeared as if by magic. Now, there was no magic except the magic of the law of correspondence. If any one will compare these cases with the pathogeneses of the medicines selected, he will at once see how marvellously true is the system of Hahnemann. The fact of the matter is, given any number of such cases, they are all of them bound to yield to the remedies, and that, too, without leaving the patient a bit the worse of the doctor's interference. There is no constipation induced, no locking-up of the thief in the

of the remedy in this and the following cases. The letters and numerals following the names of the medicines denote the potencies used; *c.* standing for hundred, and *m.* for thousand: *m.m.* for the millionth potency or the thousand thousandth.

house, no secondary consequences to fear. So much for diarrhoea ; let us take its opposite.

CONSTIPATION.—A little girl, two years of age, is subject to habitual constipation, for which both *Nux Vomica* and *Sulphur* were prescribed empirically without effect. There was an absence of concomitant or other symptoms to guide one, so I enquired of her *disposition*. “*It was mild and gentle, patient, never cross.*” Her brother, four years of age, is “*the veriest little d—l.*” *Pulsatilla* 30. One dose night and morning for four days cured her *permanently*.

CONSTIPATION.—A. B., wet-nurse to a lady, was the subject of very obstinate constipation, the bowels remaining unmoved for days together, and this always so for years past. Copious supply of good milk, which satisfies baby. *Sinking, empty feeling every forenoon at 11, heat on top of head, hot flushes to the face, fainty turns during the day, feet usually cold, some of the fingers appear dead of a morning, throbbing headaches now and then.* *Sulphur m.m.* in one dose cured her *permanently and without repetition.*

I have had many such cases, but I have given enough to put allopathy to the blush. These satisfactory results of homœopathic treatment have helped very largely to convince me of the great superiority of Hahnemann’s system of the treatment of constipation

and diarrhoea over that of the old or any school of medicine. It will readily be observed that *each case is a separate study*, and it will be found to be so in every case as we advance.

In cases, again, of *Chronic Disease*, the cure by allopathy is frequently only in appearance ; in a very short time the same phenomena return, or in a changed form, and very generally the last stage of that woman is worse than the first, every fresh palliation being a draft on the future. For instance, an old standing dyspepsia, with daily vomiting for months, may seem to be cured. By-and-by the patient is attacked with cranial or facial neuralgia. Says the physician, this is not the same disease, but another, and fails to cure it, because his pathology fails to teach him that it is the old stomach affection which has only changed its platform of mischief. Psora, most likely, gave rise to both, and the corresponding antipsoric, probably *arsenicum*, will cure both.

It would not be difficult to prove that every blister, mustard plaster, or counter-irritant ; that every purgative, even a mild dose of castor oil ; that every so-called tonic and alkaline or antacid medicine ; that every opiate or narcotic, not excepting bromide of potassium, chloral, chlorodyne or hops, is a step in the wrong direction, simply because *every form of curable disease can be cured without one or all of them as palliatives*. Nor would it be difficult to prove that every so-called

antibilious pill and “pick-me-up” is in very truth and reality another nail in the recipient’s coffin, whether they believe it or not. Instead of these agents and modes of cure having a vitalising, they have a decidedly devitalising action on the human and every living body, either in health or in disease. I do not think there is a single allopathic practitioner whose opinion I value, who will not endorse what I have now stated. Ask him whether he would give his own child food or medicine ; his reply requires no reflection. Ask the follower of Hahnemann what he would do ; he will tell you, either ; because he knows that if by ignorance or accident the wrong medicine has been selected, it will do his child no harm, unless needlessly repeated—when pathogenetic symptoms might be induced,—*and if it be the right medicine, it will infallibly cure his child.* What more perfect system of medicine than this can any reasonable soul desire ? These, then, are some more of my reasons for deserting the old flag and joining the new.

Allopathy, as a curative system, has for its chief foundation the physical or objective phenomena of diseased action, whilst homœopathy is founded chiefly in the subjective or spiritual nature of man. Allopathy is, in its essence, a strictly material school of philosophy without a vestige of soul, whereas homœopathy is the very reverse. Whilst I am upon this subject, I would

observe that the allopathist is invariably, or almost invariably forced to disregard the statements of his patient as to his or her feelings, and very often he laughs at them as nervousness, by which he means imagination; the morbid feelings of the patient do not exist in reality. It is difficult to say which of the terms, madman or fool, would be the most appropriate to such a physician. When he comes, however, to have the same feelings within himself, he is forced to own with his patient that nervousness is much more of a reality than he thought it was. Chronic hysteria and nervous irritability, which are perfectly incurable by allopathy, and which is generally put down to the debit of the womb in females, and to the brain, stomach, or liver in man, is a disease which is as amenable to cure by homœopathy as any other form of disease. It is a disease of the soul or mind, and, like all curable diseases of the mind, is particularly amenable to the law of *similia similibus curenur*. It will be a very long time before allopathy can say the same. In allopathy the soul is nowhere; in homœopathy the state of the soul and mind is a *sine quâ non*. Allopathy has no means of affecting the soul or mind, except those of a moral kind; whereas homœopathic medicines act upon the spirit or soul of man, and through it and by means of it, and with a certainty which is as remarkable as it is true. This is another reason for my transferring my affections to homœopathy.

Again, allopathy, as a rule, lays violent hands, not upon the entire disease, "the totality of the symptoms," but it endeavours to drown or suppress one or more of the most prominent, so as to hide them, as it were, from the patient "for a time, to be more fresh reviving." Vain subterfuge; but it generally succeeds well with the patient, who, like the ostrich when pursued, hides its head in the sand, and because it no longer sees its pursuer, presumes itself secure. "When ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise." Homœopathy, on the contrary, has little power over individual symptoms; the remedy selected *must* correspond as near as possible to the totality of the symptoms in every case, and more especially to the mental and moral symptoms of the patient, if they exist or if they are attainable. In Hahnemannian-homœopathy the patient is always treated, and never the disease by name; in allopathy and Hendersonian-homœopathy the pathological condition or name of the disease is everything. For instance, in allopathy, almost every kind of adynamic fever is treated alike, and the same with every form of sthenic or inflammatory fever. It is not so in homœopathy; every individual case of fever or disease is a separate entity and study; every case being treated simply on its own merits, that is, by finding out a remedy which, as near as possible, is capable of inducing the totality of the symptoms, whatever they

may be, and giving that medicine in an infinitesimal dose. This is no rule of thumb method of treating the sick. It is not a governmental, regimental, or municipal coat to fit all comers ; but it is a careful and laborious measuring of the individual in order to guarantee him a perfect and a permanent cure. Neither is it the work of expectancy, as some would fain make us believe, or of imagination.

SPECIAL REASONS FOR ADOPTING THE HAHNEMANNIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINE.

Over and above the reasons already given for following in the footsteps of Hahnemann, when I found that his mighty discoveries enabled me to treat the diseases of females without the use of mechanical pessaries or props, without local appliances or medication of any kind ; without cauterizing or burning the womb, as it is tritely styled, for ulceration of the os or cervix ; and without the aid of the vaginal speculum, except as a means of aiding diagnosis, I at once hailed homœopathy, as every modest woman must, and as every right-minded physician ought, as that which is wanted in order to roll back the fearful tide of mechanical interference in the treatment of the diseases of females, which is the greatest medical scandal of the age.

To use the language of a late President of the Obstetrical Society of London — he says, “ It has

seemed to me, in making a general survey of our ground, and weighing our present position, that the great impetus given of late years, by many admirable workers, to the progress of uterine surgery, has tended to throw the balance somewhat too much over to the surgical side of the scale, and that operative and mechanical methods of treatment have displaced somewhat unduly and hurtfully the medical and psychical considerations in uterine cases." I am glad there is one amongst the allopaths who sees as I have long seen; let us hope that he will extend his vision, and throw all mechanical interference in the treatment of the special diseases of females, and all local medication and mystification, aside as a makeshift, as a cursed thing which ought never to have been tolerated. I am pleased to find that there are others in the profession besides Professor Priestley of the same opinion. Sir William Gull expressed himself, at the General Council of Medical Education and Registration, on the 26th of June, 1874, as follows:—"I consider there are some parts of the medical profession that a highly-trained woman could do better than a man. There are certain sex relations which might be avoided in that way with great advantage to the public. I need not say that there is a quiet scandal in certain parts of our profession about women's diseases, which probably will be got rid of by introducing high-minded, well-trained

women into the practice of medicine." This is a good move and a wise suggestion, and made by a brave man; but when it is known and believed that *all local medication in uterine disease, without exception, is not only unnecessary but essentially bad*, it will be a small matter whether a male or a female physician has the conduct of the case. Homœopathy will give the death-blow to all the disgusting management of uterine and vaginal disease, "vaginal fumbling," which has emanated from the schools of Paris in particular, and the Continental schools in general. God speed the cause and the day.

CAUTERIZING THE WOMB FOR ULCERATION.

As to the operation of cauterizing or burning the mouth of the womb and the cervical canal with nitrate of silver and other caustics for ulceration and chronic inflammation, it is homœopathic with a vengeance—like curing like. If anything is qualified to induce inflammation or ulceration, it is an escharotic. The profession has to thank, in particular, Dr. James Henry Bennet, of London and Mentone, and the late Sir James Simpson, for the introduction of this questionable pathology and practice. It is sincerely to be hoped that, by their retirement from the scene of action, the practice will die out. Years before I joined the ranks of homœopathy—yes, at least twenty years ago—I saw

not only the folly but the extreme cruelty of such treatment, and I was led to trust entirely to soothing measures and constitutional medicines of a supporting tendency. But now, since I have seen the power of homœopathic constitutional treatment over ulcers of the cutaneous and mucous surfaces everywhere, I have given up all topical or local applications whatever, except injections or fomentations with water, warm, tepid, or cold, when required, and which the patient can use herself or get done for her by a nurse or female acquaintance. Even these simple measures I use only in rare cases, because the uterine and vaginal canals are, like all the other canals or channels in the body, *self-cleansing*.

If we are to judge of the prevalence of ulceration of the os and cervix uteri by the number of females who consult specialists about it, one is forced to conclude that females must be subject to no other disease, especially married ones; and I am sorry to add that this holds true to a very large extent even in regard to virgins. It stands to reason that the latter must have been examined both digitally and by the speculum, which is a crying-sin and a disgrace to the profession and humanity. Does any one need to wonder at the movement in favour of lady-doctors, and the immense opposition which it meets with from the profession? As I have now been a Specialist in the diseases of

females since 1855, no one will deny my right from ample experience and opportunity to be heard on this momentous subject. I give it as my opinion, after twenty-eight years of special practice, that ulceration of the os and cervix uteri is not only a rare affection, but when it does exist it is much more generally confirmed, if not aggravated, by astringent or caustic treatment. I rejoice to add that the very worst forms of it are curable by carefully selected homœopathic medicines administered by the mouth, without any local medication *per vaginam*, except cleanliness by means of water of various temperatures, and generally not even that. As for *tampons*, and all such meddlesome make-believes, the sooner they are dispensed with the better. I desire to think charitably of all men ; but why, let me ask, is the term "*ulceration*" used for every or no diseased condition, if it is not for the purpose of preying upon the already morbidly excited fears and the ignorance of the patient? Besides, "*ulceration*" is a misnomer, as it is simply a term expressive of one of the changes or terminations taking place during the process of simple or specific inflammation. It is my candid opinion that the vaginal speculum has made more ulceration than it ever cured ; and it has discovered a thousand-fold more than ever existed.

MECHANICAL STRICTURE, CAUSING PAINFUL
MENSTRUATION.

Let us take an example of mechanical cure. Take incision of the cervix uteri for so-called mechanical dysmenia ; and dilatation by means of sponge tents, tents of laminaria, and metallic bougies or sounds, for a similar condition ; as also galvanic and intra-uterine stem pessaries, and the like. I have seen plenty of this practice, and I desire to see no more. It is bound in the future to be *non est inventus*. Homœopathy has already prepared its grave, as it can cure the worst forms of dysmenorrhœa resulting from so-called stricture of the internal os-uteri ; from retroversion or other displacement ; from inflammation or spasm of the cervical canal, or from ovarian irritation ; yea, even the membranous variety ; without the slightest local interference whatever. I give an illustration out of many of dysmenia with retroversion of the womb.

CASE.—A German nursery-maid, aged 24, has been suffering, at every monthly period, intense agony, partly from headaches, but chiefly from painful menstruation. Her sufferings have lasted from puberty (eight years). She consulted a lady physician in New York, who diagnosed retroversion of the womb. But displacement alone is rarely the cause of the pain, as the pain is generally removable, although the displacement may remain.

The headaches and a burning, drawing pain in the middle of her back, which was constant, with canine hunger, worst at 11 a.m., great thirst, hot flushes of the face at times, and weakness of the knees, as if she would sink, were removed in about a month by a dose of *Sulphur* 30 once a day. The agonising pain during menstruation remained unmitigated, and resisted several well-directed means of relief, among which may be mentioned *Belladonna*, *Coffea*, *Pulsatilla*, *Sepia*, and *Sulphur*, all in the thirtieth potency. Once only in three months was it relieved by *Nux Vomica* 200. I was first consulted on the 7th December, 1874, and, although her general health was greatly improved, it was not until April, 1875, when her headaches returned, that I observed she was very irritable when spoken to, both before and during the flow of the menses. *Ill-humour, both before and during the menses, corresponds to Causiticum, Chamomilla, and Chloride of Magnesium.* I had little difficulty in selecting *Chamomilla*. Menses—*One week before, when her irritability begins, she has pains, like those of labour, always in the morning, before breakfast, with sickness and vomiting of her meals. Headache, with throbbing in both temples, with a bursting feeling in vertex, relieved by pressure and cold; aggravated by reading, by bright light, and by looking at an object fixedly.* Her sufferings eased off generally on the second day after the flow was established.

Eight years of intense suffering, as above described, was brought to a close; cured by *Chamomilla* 200 in three doses, during the period, having been preceded by *Chamomilla* 30, every night during the interval. This case is extremely interesting, as showing the importance of mental or head symptoms over bodily ones. Had it not been that I *observed* the impatience and extreme irritability of the young woman at the time of her menses, I could never have succeeded in curing her, *as she stoutly denied that she was ever irritable*. In truth, she was not at all aware of it, like most people when in a temper. Her mistress had also observed it only when her period was approaching, and the first two days. Such cases are generally incurable, except by chance, unless the mental or moral symptoms are covered by the medicine. What could incision of the cervix, or rectification of the uterus, or dilatation or any local or mechanical mystification do in a case of this kind? And they are exceedingly common, as my short experience of homœopathy teaches me.

**UTERINE DISPLACEMENTS.—PESSARIES OF ALL KINDS,
MECHANICAL AND MEDICATED—THEIR USELESSNESS.**

As regards vaginal and intra-uterine pessaries and medicated pessaries, in every form and of every substance, they are all of them filthy nuisances; and the

time will come when antiquarians will have them in their museums as monuments of past ignorance. I have removed many a pessary during the past twenty years, and I am thankful to be able to add that I have introduced none. Since I have adopted homœopathy I have never had occasion to introduce one, and it seems to me that the day is postponed indefinitely when I shall have occasion to use another. With such medicines as *Belladonna*, *Calcarea-carb.*, *Calcarea-phos.*, *Conium*, *Kali-carb.*, *Lachesis*, *Lilium*, *Lycopodium*, *Nux-vomica*, *Platina*, *Rhus-tox.*, *Secale*, *Sepia*, *Sulphur*, *Thuya*, *Zinc*, and a few others, we may safely consider ourselves equal to the cure of almost every conceivable case of pain or inconvenience from uterine displacement, without mechanical or local treatment of any kind. The cure of uterine displacements by means of homœopathy is not a rule of thumb affair, as taught by Simpson and others, nor is the selection of the remedy or remedies a mere matter of guess. Try this, and, if it fails, try that, and so on to the end of the chapter, which very generally ends in bitter disappointment to all concerned. In the treatment of uterine deviations, as in all else treated on Hahnemannian principles, there are no panaceas, no specifics ; each case must be studied separately and treated with its corresponding medicine, the key-note to which may be more mental than corporeal. If carefully sifted

and prescribed for, the very worst cases are curable by homœopathic medicines, rest, diet, and general hygiene, without local manipulation, and certainly without local medication of any kind.

As a specimen of the abuse, of the danger, and of the misery frequently attending the use of vaginal pessaries, the following is quoted from the Report of the Meeting of the Obstetrical Society of London, held on 6th October, 1874. Dr. Gervis exhibited a pessary removed from a patient, aged 56, in whose person it had remained impacted fifteen years. Four years ago she felt weak in the lower back; two years ago her legs became weak, and she was unable to walk without assistance. For six months she had been nearly bedridden, with a discharge tinged with blood, and of a highly offensive odour. "A large round metallic pessary was found imbedded in the vaginal walls, and was removed by the aid of bone forceps." What a relief it must have been to the poor woman. But that is not all; some six or eight Fellows followed suit by narrating similar if not more horrible experiences. I may add that every medical man in Europe has had similar and plenty of such experiences. It is not long since I removed a Hodge's pessary from a young and elegant female, a London lady, and the patient of a *Court physician* of great reputation. The lady was going out to dinner in the evening, but could

not stir one step until I removed it. The dimensions of the pessary are four and a-half by two and a-quarter inches, and it is still in my possession. A remark by the President of the Meeting is worthy of being recorded ; " He thought these *archaic* instruments would soon be out of use." To which I sincerely say, " Amen."

I may be allowed to make two exceptions to my decided objection to the use of vaginal pessaries, namely, cases of old standing in women over the meridian of life, and cases where, from sloughing and neglected laceration of the perineum during labour, the structure and function of the parts may have become so altered as to be beyond the power of medicine to rectify. Such cases are few in comparison with the immense number of women whose wombs are *unnecessarily* propped up by Hodge's and other forms of pessaries. The exceptions I have made belong more properly to the province of surgery. I have not seen any such cases since I adopted homœopathy, but others have seen and cured cases of long standing. The case recorded by Dr. H. N. Guernsey, of Philadelphia, in his magnificent work on Obstetrics, page 107-8 of the first edition, but which has reached the third edition, is a mighty triumph of homœopathic skill. A complete *procidentia uteri*, of ten years' standing, was cured by *Conium* and *Platina* in high-potencies, and which never returned, although the patient has since borne three children.

VAGINISMUS.

Again, let us take painful coitus, or what is improperly called *vaginismus*, or spasm of the *sphincter vaginae*, but which is in reality a neuralgia of the nymphæ and adjacent structures—a true hyperæsthesia of the pudic branches of the genito-crural and internal-pudic nerves, and probably also of the pudic branches of the hypogastric plexus of the great sympathetic. Dr. Marion Sims states that this affection can only be cured by a surgical operation,—his own operation,—which I have frequently performed with more or less success. I have only to say that it is not always curable by a surgical operation, as it is apt to return; whereas it is capable of being permanently cured by means of homœopathic medicines administered internally, without local treatment, except cleanliness and warm or hot water.

I intended to have given two remarkable cases of *Vaginismus* cured by the law of correspondence, but as this Paper is partly intended for the general public, it has been thought more prudent to reserve them for a strictly medical platform. I may remark, however, that one of them, a very bad case indeed, was cured by *Silicea 15 m.* in about three weeks—one dose night and morning; whilst the other, an equally distressing but much more complicated case, was treated by means of Sulphur, *Nux-vomica*, *Chamomilla*, and *Calcarea-*

carbonica, and ultimately cured by *Ignatia*, all in high-potencies, in about three months.*

As to the barbarous operation of "melting down" the os uteri, or "boring a hole" through it and the cervix, with *potassa fusa* or *potassa c. calce*, for engorgement, with induration of the womb, I have only to say that it is entirely curable without any local interference whatever, to say nothing of the fact that by far too much has been made of it. The product of disease in this, as in the most of allopathic pathology, is mistaken for the disease itself, the morbific cause. "Men immersed in Nature, mistake the forms for the essences of things." *Platina* has cured chronic inflammatory engorgement and induration of the womb before now, and it will do so again; besides many other medicines, chiefly antipsoric, capable of counteracting the peculiar constitutional miasm of the patient which induces the organic change.

As for vulvitis, vaginitis, metritis, endometritis, ovaritis, pelvic-cellulitis, peritonitis, hepatitis, enteritis, and all the other itises; with leucorrhœa, menorrhagia, amenia and dysmenia, anaemia, chlorosis and leuco-

* It may be objected that I have given too few cases in this Paper on which to build such sweeping reforms. It will not be said or thought so when I have published those which remain behind. For the reasons already stated—and considering the just suspicion of the profession against all papers illustrated with a copious list of successful cases, especially when the Paper is partly intended to meet the public eye—I have purposely limited the number of cases to a minimum. Whatever carping critics may say on this head, "Truth can afford to wait."

cythaëmia ; they are all of them infinitely more amenable to homœopathic than to allopathic treatment, and that, too, without any form of counter-irritation or local treatment of a medicated kind whatsoever. Such is the result which my judgment has arrived at after nine years of experience of homœopathy. During the greater part, if not the whole of this time, I have conducted my practice without ever prescribing the mildest known aperient (a teaspoonful of castor oil) ; without once applying a blister or a mustard plaster, or prescribing medicine in any form but that of infinitesimal doses, and my success is a hundred-fold more satisfactory to myself and to my patients than it was in my balmiest days of allopathy. Some allopaths may say, and they will say, that it is all the result of the *vis medicatrix Nature*—that I have succeeded in amusing the patient while Nature has cured the disease. Supposing this were true, why do they not follow suit, but prefer to give bottles of badly-smelling, badly-tasting, nauseating, purging, body and soul-destroying, nasty physic and cod-liver oil ? Some homœopaths may say, How is it that we are unable to bring about the same results ? *Simply because the right method of selecting the remedy and repeating it is not adopted.* Follow the admirable directions of Hahnemann, as laid down in his *Organon*, page 142 of the fourth American edition—“Directions to the physician for discovering and tracing

out an image of the disease," *et sequitur*,—as I have done, and no one can possibly fail. Select the remedy according to the Hendersonian-method, according to the local pathological condition, chiefly or entirely, and alternate it with one or more medicines similarly selected, and nothing but failure can be predicated of it. What one man has accomplished, and that, too, in a very short space of time, others may do if they have the will. *Quodcumque imperavit animus obtinuit.*

THE DANGER AND FOLLY OF LOCAL ASTRINGENTS, ETC., IN VAGINAL AND UTERINE LEUCORRHEA.

A word as to astringent and other injections in the treatment or *quasi* cure of leucorrhœa or "whites." A more certain method of injuring a female and of making work for one's self could not be invented. The same remark refers to intra-uterine injections, and cauterizing the mouth, neck, and interior of the womb with caustic. It is tantamount in folly and ignorance to attempting to dam up a river at its mouth, only it is infinitely more dangerous and to be condemned. It is not enough to say that Simpson and Bennet and all the schools of medicine taught and practised it. They do practise such enormities, and are not aware of the great danger to which they subject their patients. If they do succeed in damming up the constitutional waste pipe, their pathology is so grievously at fault that they fail to

recognise the mischief set up in the womb and ovaries, as well as in other parts of the female system, by their malpractice. Leucorrhœa in all its forms, more especially, when habitual or chronic, is eliminative of that which is inimical to the safe working of the female organism—and is *curable* only by the constitutional homœopathic *simillimum*. Pains and aches, and at all times serious inflammations, are lit up in the womb itself, the ovaries, the liver, the stomach, the brain, and lungs by a suppressed leucorrhœa. It is not unusual to hear of females writhing in agony for hours after such treatment; and the misfortune is, that the females themselves have come to believe that it is the only course left for them, namely, to grin and abide,—which is simply deplorable.

VAGINAL EXAMINATIONS—THEIR ABUSE.

It is not at all unusual to meet with females—yea, the most highly-cultivated and refined of the sex, moving in the very best circles of society, from the Court downwards—brought to believe by their medical attendant that their cases cannot be skilfully and properly treated or conducted without a regular system of vaginal examinations, both digital and specular, once or twice a week. I was brought up in this absurd, this mischievous faith, and I have practised it for years, knowing no better; but I have since learned through

the inspired intellect of Hahnemann, and from my own experience, that so-called vaginal examinations (except for the purpose of diagnosis), and all local treatment of uterine disease, not strictly surgical, are, seriously speaking, something worse than useless. (1883. I rarely now have recourse to vaginal examinations; only when suspicious of organic disease or pregnancy.)

HAHNEMANNIAN HOMŒOPATHY IN THE COMMONER AFFECTIONS OF FEMALES—WITH CASES.

In order to show the marvellous power of homœopathic medicines over the commoner forms of the diseases of females, such as leucorrhœa, menorrhagia, and ovarian disease, I give the following cases out of many similar, *yet all different as regards the therapeutic agent.*

CASE.—Mrs. —— has been complaining since 1868, which was about the time of her mother's death. Then and since she has had profuse menorrhagia twice a month, lasting eight days, with clots, and excessive flow of whites in the interval. Accompanying these symptoms she has the following characteristic symptoms:—*Hot flushes to the face and head frequently during the day; a sinking, empty, exhausted craving amounting to gnawing at times, at the epigastrium, and always worst about 11 a.m.—relieved by food of any kind; her skin is always bathed in perspira-*

tion; she has great palpitation of the heart and infra-mammary pain, which is on the increase.

Treatment.—On the 5th of August, 1874, I gave her *Sulphur* 30, one dose every morning until next menses, unless an aggravation should occur before then. The menses were delayed to four weeks, and they were very moderate and no clots. The perspirations were completely stopped, and the whites decidedly lessened. Without going further into details, I will simply add that, to the month of December, 1875, more than one year, there has been no return of the menorrhagia or leucorrhœa. This lady was cauterized, and otherwise treated *secundum artem*, chiefly by “local-doctoring,” for six years, without the slightest real benefit: and she was cured by taking about sixteen tiny globules, having neither smell nor taste, weighing altogether two-thirds of one grain, and all in the short space of three weeks. It would be interesting to know what she paid in doctors’ bills in Manchester, London, and Liverpool during the previous six years, and all for no good!

CASE.—MENORRHAGIA, WITH LARGE UTERINE FIBROID TUMOUR.—Mrs. W., aged 42, came to me at the Liverpool Lying-in Hospital Dispensary as a patient. Married one year. No child, or miscarriage. The uterine cavity measures $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and her girth round the navel is from $33\frac{1}{2}$ to 34 inches. The tumour

is sessile, and not removable with safety. The following are her symptoms:—She wakes almost daily with a headache; a dull, heavy pain front, back, and all through; sometimes also *before* the menses she has headache. *During the menses*, whether she has a headache or not, *she is terribly ill-humoured, and "just like a spoiled child."* *The flow is profuse, and a bright florid colour, with very large clots, lasting for a week or more.* *The menses return once a month and sometimes twice.*

Uterine tumour.

On the 3rd June, 1874, I gave her *Platina* 200, one dose night and morning. On the 24th June she was complaining of nausea, and finding she took much tea, I stopped it,—to continue medicine. On the 8th July she reported herself much better, and is expecting her period. Bowels confined. Ordered her oatmeal porridge for supper, with a little bran in it.

22nd July. First report of menses. No ill-humour; clots decidedly less; flow lasted only three days, and with less intermission. Three weeks of interval. To continue medicine night and morning, as I was anxious to see if I could reduce the size of the tumour.

18th August. Complains of *dull aching pains after menses*, commencing *in back*, and coming round the left haunch and down the thighs, sometimes down both thighs.

Pulsatilla 15 m. one dose night and morning.

Pain relieved, but it returned on 15th September, during the menses, in another form, namely, swelling and pain of left side of abdomen, as if in a lump. I felt a little puzzled, but having great faith in the *Platina* I gave it again in the highest-potency which I possessed (15 m.), and with the very best result. On the 30th September, 15th October, and 28th October she has always reported herself free from all pain, from all ill-humour, and that her menses now give her neither anxiety nor the slightest uneasiness.

CASE.—MENORRHAGIA, of ten years' duration, and profuse flow of whites during the entire interval in a dispensary patient. The affection dates from her first and only confinement,—there is sub-involution of the uterus, the cavity measuring three inches fully. The menses are every ten days, and they last seven or eight days. Headaches two days before and all the time. Profuse florid red flow, dark clots, great pains, like those of labour, back and front. A lump forms in the left iliac region, with a pain, which she says is like a gathering. The same pain occurs when she walks much. The menses are followed immediately by a pinkish flow of whites, which passes into the ordinary whites.

She has a sinking, empty, exhausted feeling every day, always worse between 11 and 12 o'clock.

8th June.—*Sulphur* 30, one dose every night

at bedtime. A flow followed the examination with the uterine sound for two days, during which she took the medicine. Reports that she feels much better in the head, and less of the sinking at the stomach.

22nd June. Headache and pricking pains in left side; menses threatening. *Sulphur* 30, one dose *statim*. To see me after menses.

8th July. Nocturnal salivation; mouth and roof of mouth inflamed; sinking at stomach gone. Menses increased in frequency, in quantity, and lasted longer, but not so much pain. She has *ill-humour both before and during menses; dull, stupid feeling in head; photophobia worse by sunlight; quick, nervous temperament.*

Chamomilla 1 m., one dose to be taken at bedtime, and no repetition.

13th July. Better in all respects.

28th July. Longer interval and less flow. Repeat *Cham.*, same dose and potency.

15th Sept. Interval, one month all but three days; only three days poorly; no clots nor pain; ill-humour gone. Complains now only of distension, worse after meals, and *a sensation, as of the movements of a fetus after quickening, worse when sitting*, which makes her feel very nervous.

Thuja 150 m., in one dose.

29th September. Movements decidedly less. Repeat *Thuja* 150 m., twelve doses, one night and morning.

13th October. Movements have entirely ceased.

On the same day (13th October), this patient informed me of an old symptom for the first time, and it was the only one she now had left, namely, *an accumulation of mucus in her trachea all day, but always worse at night*. She must sit up and hawk for hours, and cannot sleep, *with great difficulty of breathing about midnight*.

Antimonium - tartarizatum 1600, three powders. One to be taken at bedtime, one if the phlegm troubles, and the last one hour thereafter if necessary.

28th October. Reports immediate relief to have followed the first powder, the same from the second, next night, and it never returned after the third. *Discharged cured.*

The conclusion I came to on parting with this patient was, that I need never despair of curing any number of such cases as this one. It may be interesting to those who believe in treating *pathological conditions of organs as diseases*, that the womb in this case measured three inches at the end of treatment, *when the disease was cured*, as it did at the commencement; therefore the sub-involution or chronic hypertrophy or enlargement was not the disease, nor even the cause, of my patient's bodily and mental sufferings, which were really something awful. In my twenty-seven years of practice I have never before come across a worse case. I may

have cobbled them before; *I never could cure them until now.*

This patient, before leaving me for good, told me that "there was only one thing wanting to complete her happiness, and that was the birth of another child." One would have thought that, after ten years of such sufferings following upon her first and only child, she had had enough of it.

OVARITIS, WITH PELVIC CELLULITIS, ETC.

The following case of ovaritis is so unique and interesting, I must record it.

CASE—Mrs. —— was placed under my allopathic care, just as I was beginning to feel my way to the light. She was sent partly by her friends, and partly by her own medical adviser, a staunch old allopath. After her first and only confinement she had an attack of pelvic inflammation, with a considerable effusion into the left broad ligament. She was having constant returns of inflammatory action, requiring her to lie up during fifteen months, when I was consulted. On internal and external manipulation, I found a hard tumour, as large as a hen's egg, and very little movable, occupying the site of the left ovary. A course of allopathic tonics, with gentle counter-irritation, was prescribed, with a little improvement to the general health during

two or three months. At last the case became my own entirely, and I at once resolved on treating my patient, *secundum artem*, on Hahnemannic principles. To make sure, I made a second careful examination of the tumour, which I found unchanged in size, locality, and tenderness. As the patient was evidently suffering from chronic inflammation with *enlargement and induration of the left ovary*, on the 26th of last February I gave her one dose of *Lachesis m.m.* in a powder dry on her tongue, with the direction that she was to return in three weeks. She returned at the appointed time, and, to my great satisfaction and astonishment, minus the slightest trace of the inflamed or enlarged ovary, and she has had no pain nor inconvenience of any kind since—nearly a year. My patient had no other medicine given her, and no local treatment or application of any kind, and she was allowed to go about and do just as she pleased short of inducing pain or fatigue. The patient was not at all aware of any change in my views or treatment. She is now.

I beg it to be distinctly observed, that in all these and in every case which I treat, I acknowledge no specifics in any particular disease by name in Hahnemannian medicine. Every case is as a mathematical problem to be solved, and it takes much time generally, and care and patience, without which there can be no success. In the words of the late Constantine

Hering : "The examination of the patient, to be sure, is troublesome, but you can have no success without it; if you succeed without this troublesome examination, it is by chance, not by skill. If a doctor tells you that he is so learned and skilful that he can prescribe without these questions—that he, for instance, can see by the eyes, tongue, etc., what medicines to give—he is a deceiver, and those who believe in him show that they know nothing whatever of true homœopathy."

THE QUESTION OF DOSE AND POTENCY.

It will be observed, in the few cases cited in this brochure, one medicine only has been administered at a time, and that generally in a high-potency. If any one be disposed to think that I am tied to high-potencies, he is vastly mistaken. The system of Hahnemann, which has many and various interpreters, admits of no such division as that of low and high-potency men. It is a mere trick of the arch-enemy of mankind and of all truth to break up our ranks by destroying our unity. I believe in and use in my practice every potency, from the first upwards. The system of Hahnemann, as interpreted by myself—and I allow no man to interpret for me—is one great whole which admits of no dismemberment or disintegration without certain ruin. The key-stone of the triumphal arch is the therapeutic law *similia similibus curenur*—the like is curable by the like;

the piers and buttresses of the arch are, first, *one single medicine at a time, and, second, that only in an infinitesimal dose.* What constitutes an infinitesimal dose is a much-disputed point, and is, in my opinion, a question of minor importance, which every man must decide for himself according to the light that is in him, guided by experience. On the subject of the dose, the late distinguished Dr. J. H. P. Frost, in the *Hahnemannian Monthly* for 1873, expresses well my own judgment in the matter. He says, "If the *right* remedy be given in large or in smaller or even in infinitesimal doses, a cure will result in many cases. But the *wrong* remedy, given in any or in every possible dose, will cure in no case. Every actual cure is made by the potential homeopathic remedy. We must determine the dose by the dynamic condition and susceptibility of the patient." At the same time I must add that I have a great partiality, yea, a decided preference, for high-potencies, because I know by daily experience the marvellous curative power which they possess. They can accomplish in one dose, and in a short space of time, what low-potencies never will effect in any dose or however often repeated. In short, in a hard and difficult or tough case, either acute or chronic, *the potency cannot possibly be too high*, so far as my own experience is concerned, provided always that the *similimum* is well made out.

It may be said that high-potencies are not what they are represented to be, because the method is not that of Hahnemann in detail. This can not be said of Boericke's, Jenichen's, Lehrmann's, Dunham's, Lillie's, and my own F. C. attenuations, which are made by processes such as Hahnemann himself, if he could witness them, would highly approve, because all the essential points are most scrupulously observed and greatly improved upon, whilst time is enormously economised, and error is next to an impossibility, so perfect are the methods used. I am of opinion that all high-potencies in my possession are attenuated or potentised *secundum artem*, and they are thoroughly reliable as such, if I am to be allowed to judge by their effects on my patients and upon myself. My own are all to be had of Messrs. Alfred Heath & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, 114, Ebury Street, London, S.W., who are the sole agents for Great Britain. As I have made a present to them of my self-imposed labour of years, I have no pecuniary interest in the sale of them whatever. The sole agent for Dr. Swan's high-potencies in Britain is Dr. E. W. Berridge, 48, Sussex Gardens, London, W., where they may be had in pellets or in tincture for medication. Dr. Fincke's, so far as I know, can only be had from himself direct. Dr. Fincke, Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. will find him.

To return to the low-potencies, let me just observe

that if one finds that he succeeds better with low than with high-potencies, why find fault with him? It is better for all of us to try to creep before we walk ; to begin to climb from the bottom of the ladder instead of taking flying leaps. Some may say, Why give advice which you do not take yourself? Simply because I was previously educated for the rapid advance I have made ; all are not so prepared. It would appear that our Lord's remark, "I have yet many things to say unto you, *but ye cannot bear them now,*" is as true of medical as it is of religious truth. There are only two great faults which I have to find at the present day, and the first is, giving two or more medicines in alternation ; the second is, resorting to counter-irritation, to aperients (especially podophyllum in the mother tincture), opiates, even to subcutaneous injections with morphia, and other allopathic practices, which cannot be too strongly denounced as Anti-Hahnemannian in the extreme.

Regarding low-potencies, there is no doubt that cures have been effected in thousands of cases by all manner of potencies and doses, from an allopathic dose of a substance to the millionth potency and far beyond. Allopathic *cures*, not palliations or mere recoveries, are invariably effected by the same law of similars, only allopaths are not always aware of it, and no one can say that they deal in infinitesimal doses. To

remove all doubt on this point, I have only to refer to the *Organon* of Hahnemann, where it will be seen that the entire facts, constituting an "Introduction" of ninety pages, on which Hahnemann founded the first principles of his system, were culled from allopathic sources and allopathic doses. Indeed it could not be otherwise, because there was no Homœopathic *Materia Medica* then in existence. The same may be said of Hahnemann's remarkable work on Chronic Diseases ; the facts, the cures effected by single medicines, are all from the crude form of drugs, and in allopathic doses.

I do not for one moment mean it to be understood that Hahnemann intended the same loose system to be carried out *in extenso vel in perpetuo*. On the contrary, he has placed it on record that every year of his long life he proceeded from higher to higher potencies. He used these allopathic facts simply to convince the medical faculty of his and our day that the truths of his system were to be gathered from facts which were daily transpiring around them ; and I have alluded to them here, not to prove that the low-potency men are right or the high wrong, but to prove that the lowest potencies and even crude drugs and infusions of plants can and have cured disease on the principle that like cures like, irrespective of the dose. The conclusion is therefore forced upon us that, whatever may be said in favour of the doctrine of the infinitesimality of the dose—and I

am a staunch believer in the extreme of dynamization, even to infinity—yet it is not a *sine quâ non* in effecting a cure by the law of correspondence.

Whilst I would give the greatest latitude to others, I claim for myself a similar privilege in return. The allopathist doubts the results of the low-dilutionist, and the low-dilutionist in turn doubts the high, both of them forgetting that the question is one of simple experiment, admitting of no other test or explanation except experiment in the cure of diseased action ; and until a man has tried all three, patiently and without prejudice, allopathic crude drugs, low-potencies, and high-potencies, he is in no way entitled to be a judge in the matter. It strikes me that the chief cause of all our differences on the question of the potency or attenuation of the remedy is *the difference in our mode of selecting and repeating the medicine.*

CONVERSION AND CURE, AND BY WHOM.

One other and not the least important of my reasons for seceding from allopathy, is one of deeply-felt gratitude for what homœopathy has done for me when allopathy had signally failed. All honour to those distinguished and most worthy physicians who did their very best for me.

For at least three years I had been perfectly *hors de*

combat in so far as the practice of my profession was concerned. During twenty-one months of that time I had never experienced more than two hours of sleep in fourteen days, and more than once I have been as much as six weeks without knowing what it was to be one moment unconscious day and night. At the same time I was suffering from habitual constipation and terrible acidity of stomach, with bodily and mental anguish unutterable. I repeat, allopathic medicine was powerless except to aggravate my sufferings. At last, after years of travel by land and sea, which greatly improved my general health, I was introduced, in a very remarkable way, to Dr. Edward William Berridge, 48, Sussex Gardens, Hyde Park, London, W., under whose kind and skilful treatment I have steadily improved ever since. In fact, he not only cured me, but he first converted me and instructed me in the genuine theory and practice of homœopathy as practised by Hahnemann himself; and, strange to add, I had only had an opportunity of seeing or of speaking with Dr. Berridge for two hours or so in my whole life, and that was in my own house. All my instruction has been obtained by means of epistolary correspondence with him, and scores of long letters have passed between us.

It may be interesting to note that I was cured of the constipation, the acid dyspepsia (which I have had all my life), my sleeplessness, deficient assimilation and

general debility, and restored to a life of usefulness, and full vigour of body and mind, by a few doses of the *millionth potency of Sulphur*, prepared by *Dr. Baericke, of Philadelphia*. To give the indications for the selection of the remedy would be too tedious a task. I shall never forget the marvellous change which the first dose effected within a few weeks, especially the rolling away, as it were, of a dense and heavy cloud from my mind. It will be a sad day for me when I cease to remember with gratitude how much I owe to Dr. Berridge, not only for my restoration to health, and enabling me to follow my professional vocation, but also for most that I do know of the doctrines and practice of Hahnemannian medicine.

I think it proper to add that Dr. Berridge is an author of very considerable repute as regards the *Materia Medica*. I believe his *Repertory of the Diseases of the Eyes* to be the best in any language, and I am glad to find myself supported in this opinion by such men as the late Constantine Hering, and others better qualified to judge. He is now preparing a *Repertory to the entire Materia Medica*, and I understand that the volumes on the head, ears, abdomen, and chest are already in preparation. He is also the compiler of the *Pathogenetic Record; An Arrangement of the Physiological and Toxicological Effects of Drugs, collected from Medical and General Literature*, which is now being published as an appendix

to the *British Journal of Homœopathy*; besides many valuable contributions to the homœopathic journals, chiefly on the American continent.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

In what I have stated I think I have given sufficient reason for my forsaking the ranks of allopathy, and preferring for the future to fight under the banner of homœopathy. Of my brethren in the ranks of homœopathy, I know very little as yet; but I trust that, however we may differ, there will be found common ground enough, and to spare, for us to agree upon, and to advance the cause which all must have at heart,—the raising of a living temple, dedicated to the genius of medicine, the foundation of which was so substantially and firmly laid by Samuel Hahnemann.

Homœopathy being but in its infancy, it wants men of independent courage, who can stand upon their own feet, regardless of any outside organisation whatever, and fearless of the tyranny of numbers. With such men to nurse her, she is independent of allopathy and all its conservative rights and privileges; its Government grants; its poor-law, army and navy, and other appointments, even its hospitals and dispensaries; I would I could add its colleges and universities. Homœopathy being but a young shoot of the noble and eternal tree of

life and truth, it has to be made strong by opposition—by contests with stormy and warlike elements. Like all new truths, it has to be baptised in a baptism of fire and of blood ; it has to meet with persecution and treachery even from its vaunted friends, and when it has withstood all this and much more, then the ignorant and the prejudiced will adopt it as their own child—one of their own bringing up. All will then espouse the new truth, and that which was but a tender shoot will become a stalwart stem : “The stone which the builders refused is become the head-stone of the corner.” That such will be the future of Hahnemann’s unprecedented discoveries I have no doubt.

I have said that I have renounced the therapeutics of the old-school entirely, but I have retained all that is good in other respects. No man can ever cease to be grateful to the giants of thought, the wise and the good, the advanced guard of all schools and of all ages, for what they have done, and in particular in the causes of surgery, obstetrics and pathology, anatomy and physiology. The names of Rokitansky, Virchow, and Müller, of Germany ; of Trousseau and Cruveilhier, of Velpeau and Nelaton, of France ; of Harvey and Jenner, and Todd and Bowman, of England ; of Syme, Simpson, Fergusson, and Christison, of Scotland ; of Graves, Neligan, and Stokes, of Ireland, and of Mott, Gross, and Draper, of the United States of America, are

names which will ever live like their works, in our best remembrance.

FAREWELL TO MY ALLOPATHIC BRETHREN.

I have yet a very painful duty to perform, and that is to bid adieu to my allopathic brethren, amongst whom, I am happy to say, I have many a dear friend, and it is sincerely to be hoped no enemy. I have no alternative. By the laws of our local Medical Institution, previously quoted, we are outlawed and no longer to be trusted; and by the trades-unionism of the profession, they will not meet us in consultation; nor is it advisable we should meet under any circumstances, because as regards the treatment or therapeutics of disease, we have no common ground to stand upon. By the profession and by the press, its mouthpiece, we are considered "incapable of weighing medical evidence in a scientific way" (*British Medical Journal*, 10th April, 1875). The editor of this journal further remarks that, "homœopathy, like spiritualism, is not truly a doctrine, in any scientific sense, but an abnegation of reason." It may be some consolation to Mr. Hart to know that he and I are not the only men who have at one time entertained and given the strongest expression to the same opinions.

This being the unhappy mood of the profession



towards a part of itself, possessing equal ability, honesty of purpose, research and clinical experience, I repeat, I have no alternative but to bid them farewell; and, in doing so, I beg to express myself deeply grateful to more than one member of the allopathic body for their untiring kindness and skill exercised towards me during long and sustained illnesses of a most trying nature to all concerned. I trust they will accept this small tribute of my gratitude, respect, and esteem. My only regret is, that, having found, after thirty-five years of hard search, a true and reliable, a transcendently beautiful and thoroughly practical science of therapeutics, that I cannot convert them, and thereby enable them to participate in so great a discovery. If any of them will give me a fair hearing, I shall only be too happy to initiate them into a knowledge of what I now believe to be the only true science of therapeutics—the discovery of our immortal Hahnemann.

Lastly, at the risk of repetition, I state it as fact, that during the past nine years, I have never once prescribed the mildest aperient or purgative, nor a blister or counter-irritant of any kind, not excepting a mustard-plaster, nor an opiate or allopathic palliative. But what I consider by far the greatest triumph, is the fact that, educated as I have been, under the late Sir James Simpson, to believe in the local medication and